

# Biosecurity - Preventing Disease in Animals

## The United States is free from Foot and Mouth Disease

We are, however, always alert to foreign animal disease. Preventive measures are crucial to safeguard California's animals and economy. State and Federal programs are in place to closely monitor and regulate the movement of livestock and animal products. Despite these efforts, viruses, bacteria, and pests are capable of entering undetected on imported animals and travelers' clothing, bodies, and possessions. The illegal smuggling of animal food products also poses serious risk. The continuing cooperation of private citizens is crucial to the protection of our animal industry.



## Biosecurity is the Key!

Producers should work with their veterinarian to develop a biosecurity plan. Special emphasis should be placed on handling new additions, rodent control and monitoring, and facility and employee hygiene. Educate your employees about the importance of following the biosecurity plan.

### Recommendations Related to Foreign Travelers

- Ask visitors about farm contacts and the animal disease status of countries they have visited.
- If possible, exclude foreign visitors from livestock facilities for at least five (5) days after arrival in the U.S.
- Do not permit clothing, shoes or other articles that have been in affected countries to enter livestock facilities.
- Provide clean protective footwear and clothing and require all visitors to thoroughly wash their hands prior to entering a livestock facility.
- Discourage close contact or handling of animals by foreign visitors.
- Do not allow meat or animal products from FMD-infected countries to enter livestock facilities.
- If traveling to an affected foreign country, carefully wash and disinfect all clothing and shoes upon return to the U.S.

- Provide clean coveralls, and boots for employees and visitors. Facilities may require that employees and visitors shower before and after their visit. Limit the number of visitors.
- Minimize nonessential human exposure to animals.
- Provide effective boot disinfectant solutions and brushes and dedicated protective clothing.
- Take special precautions when visiting other farms, livestock markets, or livestock fairs and shows. Wear different overalls and boots for these visits, wash your hands frequently, and be careful not to contaminate the inside of your vehicle. Shower and change clothing before returning to your facility.
- If possible, do not allow trucks and vehicles to enter your facilities. If they must, make sure they are clean on arrival.  
It is not recommended that animals leaving your facility be allowed to return. However, if this occurs, isolate these returning animals as new additions.
- Recognize and report suspicious signs of disease to your veterinarian.
- If you learn that illegal animals or animal food products are being smuggled into the state, report it to animal health officials (you may remain anonymous).

## Animal Health and Food Safety Services



For additional information contact the Animal Health Branch at:

Phone: (916) 654-1447 Fax: (916) 653-2215  
Or visit our website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov>

Redding District: (530) 225-2140  
Modesto District: (209) 491-9350  
Fresno District: (559) 237-1843  
Ontario District: (909) 947-4462  
USDA-VS Area Office (916) 857-6170

(877) 741-3690

biosecurity preventing disease short version a4.p65

